

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00
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P 172132Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 209350

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: MEAT IMPORT LEGISLATION

REF: A) STATE 201635 B) STATE 208648

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1. THE FOLLOWING ARE USDA YEARLY PROJECTIONS OF IMPORTS
UNDER THE CURRENT FORMULA AND THE COUNTER-CYCLICAL FORMULA
CONTAINED IN H.R. 11545 (IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS):

	CURRENT LAW	H.R. 11545
1979	1,236	1,693
1980	1,176	1,758
1981	1,140	1,548

1982	1,152	1,398
1983	1,195	1,302
1984	1,252	1,293
1985	1,325	1,220
1986	1,404	1,214
1987	1,451	1,336
1988	1,388	1,637

H.R. 11545 WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, ALLOW THE PRESIDENT THE AUTHORITY HE HAS UNDER THE CURRENT LAW TO SUSPEND QUOTAS IN CERTAIN YEARS.

2. AS INDICATED REFTTEL B, PRODUCTS COVERED BY BILL BROADENED TO INCLUDE FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF ITEMS (TSUS 107.6020 AND 107.55), IMPORTS OF WHICH NOT PREVIOUSLY REGULATED BY MEAT IMPORT ACT. IN 1977 IMPORTS OF 107.6020 TOTALED 8.4 MILLION POUNDS AND CAME PRIMARILY FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IMPORTS OF 107.55 WERE 214,000 POUNDS AND CAME MOSTLY FROM AUSTRALIA AND NICARAGUA.

3. BILL WOULD ALSO REQUIRE REMOVAL OF CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT OF IMPORTS OF LIVE CATTLE FROM ESTIMATED ANNUAL DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING BASE ANNUAL QUOTA. RESULT OF THIS REQUIREMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON OPERATION
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OF FORMULA.

4. THOUGH VARIOUS ATTEMPTS MADE IN WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE TO FURTHER AMEND BILL, ONLY SUCCESSFUL AMENDMENT WAS ONE REQUIRING TERMINATION OF MEAT IMPORT ACT IN 10 YEARS UNLESS EXTENDED BY CONGRESS. VANCE

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